



Community Advisory Panel

Meeting #6 – 13/12/2012

The Wine Centre, Langhorne Creek

Communiqué

“Muddy Waters” documentary:

CAP Chair Bill Paterson presented a paper about the television documentary *Muddy Waters*, recognising it was of interest to all CAP members. CAP members made a range of comments about the documentary. Russell Seaman from the CLLMM Program explained modelling about salt incursion into the lakes.

World Wetlands Day – Karyn Bradford, Anne Hartnett, and Adrienne Frears (DEWNR):

The Lakes Hubs have organised a collaborative two-day event involving science and expertise, and community input and knowledge, to mark World Wetlands Day. A community science forum will be held on Friday February 1, with scientists making presentations to the community. Representatives from the CLLMM and Living Murray Programs, as well as other service providers, will also attend. On the issue of naming the planting program, some CAP members expressed the opinion that there will be confusion if there is a name change again for the Community Revegetation Project.

Environmental Works and Measures – Carolyn Sawtell (DEWNR) and Natasha Davis (DEWNR):

Carolyn Sawtell and Natasha Davis from DEWNR provided CAP members with an update on the Environmental Works and Measures Project, and discussed how the CAP could become involved. Carolyn and Natasha explained that 106 submissions were received under this project, with 11 proposals prioritised, and six highly prioritised for scoping. The next stage of the process involves presenting the proposals to the CAP and the KNYA, as well as talking to the people who made the submissions. Pre-feasibility is expected to be completed by the end of January, with further information about the project to be circulated to the community in early February.

Lake Albert Scoping Study – Theresa Myburgh (DEWNR):

Theresa Myburgh, Project Manager for the Scoping Study said background work for the 12-month scoping study had already begun. She explained that the study will be conducted in four phases, with the first phase to include a review of existing and historic information, as well as a call to the community to provide any information that's relevant to the study. Theresa further explained that a Community Reference Group had been created for the scoping study, with members including Clem Mason, Neil Shillabeer, Felicity Turner, Gary Hera-Singh, Tim Hartman, Roger Strother, and Bill Henshall.

Community Resilience Framework – Russell Seaman (DEWNR):

Russell provided CAP members with an update on the Community Resilience Framework draft project plan. He explained that there is a commitment to finalising a working group for this project, and asked CAP members to consider driving the project. Gary Hera-Singh encouraged the CAP to engage in this process. The Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority also indicated it would like to be involved. CAP members noted that the drought had helped to make the community resilient, and that a healthy environment underpins healthy communities and healthy populations.

Ngarrindjeri update – Clyde Rigney (NRA):

Clyde Rigney from the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority (NRA) provided CAP members with an update about the NRA-KNYA Taskforce. Clyde said the NRA has recently employed three people to work in the Coorong National Park, and that the NRA will be involved in the World Indigenous Network conference in Darwin in May. Clyde noted that the Ngarrindjeri are the only SA indigenous group involved in this conference, and that it will also provide an opportunity to promote the CAP to an international audience. Clyde also said that engagement with the NRM Board is going well, cultural heritage surveys across the region are continuing, and that TIM Hartman is involved in the Lake Albert Scoping Study.

The Living Murray and River Operations update – Adrienne Frears (DEWNR), Richard Brown (DEWNR), and Kirsty Wedge (DEWNR):

A presentation about current lake water levels and salinity was provided to CAP members. Lake levels have been up for the past month, and a drop in salinity had resulted in observations of *Ruppia* flowering. The flow of environmental water has doubled in recent years, which is crucial to manage the environmental water that has come out of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. Large volumes of environmental water are being used across the lakes and Coorong region, which will help native fish and *Ruppia tuberosa* recruitment. Gary Hera-Singh said he would like to see some modelling to inform decision making about barrage releases, but he was supportive of a strategy aimed at making slow, steady releases for as long as possible. Colin Grundy questioned the ecological benefit of keeping Boundary Creek open, and asked that specific monitoring be done to assess this.

CLLMM Program Manager's update – Janice Goodwins (DEWNR):

Janice Goodwins from the CLLMM Program provided the CAP with information about the new Major Projects Branch within DEWNR, which comprises the CLLMM Program, the Riverine Recovery Program, and the SE Flows Restoration project. This will deliver efficiencies across all three programs. Janice asked CAP members to think about how the SE Flows project might be managed, and whether representatives from the SE region should join the CAP. Janice also updated the CAP about the Currency Creek regulator removal project, and CLLMM Program progress reporting.

CLLMM Program Progress and Outcomes reporting – Angus MacGregor (DEWNR):

Angus MacGregor from the CLLMM Program explained to the CAP that the Policy and Program Management Team provides the CLLMM Program with support for Commonwealth funding negotiations, Commonwealth and State reporting, and communications. Angus said progress reports are prepared every six months, and milestone payments depend on the Commonwealth's acceptance of these reports. Angus also said that an annual Outcomes Report is being prepared which will be a public record of the Program's achievements. The CAP will receive the first Outcomes Report for consideration and comment. Angus welcomed any feedback from the CAP.

Other Business:

Site Operations Manual – The CLLMM Program will engage the CAP in the development of the Manual.

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